

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05 SS-15 /099 W

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R 241003Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3254

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS HAMBURG 1697

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND GW

SUBJ: VOLKSWAGEN PRESIDENT RESIGNS

1. RUDOLF LEIDING, PRESIDENT OF VOLKSWAGEN, ANNOUNCED HIS RESIGNATION ON DECEMBER 21 GIVING ILL HEALTH AS HIS REASON. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL MEET JANUARY 10, 1975 TO NAME HIS SUCCESSOR. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE PRIME CANDIDATE FOR LEIDING'S JOB IS TONI SCHMUECKER, 53 YEAR OLD PRESIDENT OF RHEINSTAHL. OTHER LEADING POSSIBILITIES MENTIONED IN THE PRESS ARE GUENTHER VOGELSANG, FORMERLY OF KRUPP, GERHARD PRINZ OF DAIMLER BENZ, HANS BARTHELMEH, FORMER PRESIDENT OF GERMAN FORD AND GUENTHER SASSMANNSHAUSEN OF PREUSSAG.

2. RUMOR HAS IT THAT LEIDING HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN UNHAPPY WITH INCREASING RESTRICTIONS PLACED BY THE VW BOARD ON HIS FREEDOM OF ACTION. ONE OF THESE RESTRICTIONS HAS, OF COURSE, BEEN THE STRONG UNION AND SPD OPPOSITION TO LEIDING'S PROPOSED VW PLANT IN THE U.S. WHETHER LEIDING'S DEPARTURE SIGNALS AN END TO PLANS FOR THE U.S. PLANT REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IT SEEMS CERTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT THE NEW VW PRESIDENT WILL AT LEAST BE LESS VOCAL IN PROMOTING A MOVE WHICH INVOLVES SUCH HEAVY EMPLOYMENT (AND POLITICAL) RISKS. BROGAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005